

Proposed Title: Tobacco use and distress: evidence from the Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)

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Research questions:

- 1) Does respondents' smoking status vary by sociodemographic characteristics and health care access?
- 2) Is self-reported distress/depressive symptomatology of respondents associated with smoking status?

Study description/rationale:

The comorbidity of depression and smoking has been demonstrated both in early clinical observations¹⁻² and more recent epidemiological studies.³⁻⁵ The evidence, however, has not been consistent either in results or methods. Due to the selection bias inherent in convenience samples, recent work examined the association using population-based surveys that provided nationally representative sample estimates⁶⁻⁸. Despite the diversity of evidence supporting the association, the nature of the relationship between smoking and depression continues to be poorly characterized, in part due to the variety of conceptualizations of depression and lack of precision in definitions. Examination of depressive symptomatology and its relation to smoking status may offer insights into the underlying association with depression. This study proposes to examine whether respondents' current tobacco use is associated with key sociodemographic characteristics, health care access, health status, and self-reported distress/depressive symptomatology.

Variable list:

spage	First, what is your age?
spgender	Are you male or female?
hc1usual	Do you have a regular health care provider?
hs5healt	Do you have any kind of health coverage?
ch1everhad	Have you ever been told by a doctor that you have cancer?
dm1maina	What is your employment status?
dm4hispa	Are you Hispanic or Latino?
dm5race1	What is your race?(1)
dm5race2	What is your race?(2)
dm5race3	What is your race?(3)
dm5race4	What is your race?(4)
dm5race5	What is your race?(5)
dm6educa	Highest grade/year of school completed?
dm7ainco	Is income less than 25K?
dm7binco	Is income less than 20K?
dm7cinco	Is income less than 15K?
dm7dinco	Is income less than 10K?
dm7einco	Is income less than 35K?
dm7finco	Is income less than 50K?
dm7ginco	Is income less than 75K?

dm7hinco	Is income 75K or more?
hc18atrust	How much would you trust the information from a doctor or other health professional?
tu1smoke	Have you smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your life?
tu3smoke	On the average, how many cigarettes do you now smoke a day?
tu2smoke	How often do you smoke?
tu4smoke	On the average, when you smoked during the past 30 days, about how many cigarettes did you smoke a day?
tu5smoke	Would you say that(you plan to quit smoking, etc.)?
tu6smoke	About how long has it been since you last smoked cigarettes?
tu7smoke	On the average, when you smoked, about how many cigarettes did you smoke a day?
hs1general	In general, would you say your health is....
hs2asad	How often did you feel excessively sad?
hs2bnerv	How often did you feel nervous?
hs2crest	How often did you feel restless or fidgety?
hs2dhope	How often did you feel hopeless?
hs2eeffo	How often did you feel everything was an effort?
hs2fwort	How often did you feel worthless?
hs3depre	How much did these feelings interfere with daily life?

Method of analysis

Research Question 1. Crosstabulation with chi square and logistic regression will be used to examine the association of current smoking status with sociodemographic, health care access, and health status variables.

Research Question 2. An examination of differences in the mean values of distress by smoking status and logistic regression will be used to examine the association of current smoking status with distress/depression. Sociodemographic, health care access, and health status variables will be included in the multivariate models.

References

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